

T/S News

Classic Computer Column by Bill Ferree

As summer draws to a close, our minds return to indoor activities. It's time to reintroduce yourself to your T/S computer. We hope you find something in this column that will enable you to enjoy your T/S even more!

The response to our North American T/S Database has been great. If you haven't yet registered (it's free!), send a postcard with your name, address and types of T/S computers used to: Mountaineer Software, 749 Hill Street #9, Parkersburg, WV 26104.

In a recent column, we told you about the new home for Update magazine. Frank Davis, the publisher, informed us that he has opened a special post office box to receive subscriptions. To start/renew a subscription, send \$18 (four issues/year) to: Update Magazine, P.O. Box 1095, Peru, IN 46970.

The 1990 Sinclair Expo was held in Milwaukee on June 2-3. According to Bill Heberlein, vice president of SMUG (host of the Expo), well over 100 people attended. Everyone there had a great time. Preliminary plans have already begun for next year's Expo. It is tentatively planned for the

Chicago area. As more details surface, we will pass the information on to you.

Dealer Spotlight/Software Review

For this month's Dealer Spotlight and Software Review, we turn to the Great White North of Canada. Byte Power is known for their first class Magazine-on-Tape (\$32.00 U.S./six issues) for the T/S2068. Each issue contains articles and reviews like any other publication...but the best part of the magazine is the quality, ready-to-run software. Everything from games to business applications to utilities is included. Ten to 12 programs are also included in each issue.

Eric and Kristian Boisvert, the persona behind Byte Power, have also released some stand-alone software. First Class Fonts (\$19.95) is a set of various text fonts and utilities compatible with many DTP and graphic programs. 2+FAST (\$19.95) is a fast-load operating system for cassette. They also have a voice recognition system (The Voice) and a set of utilities for the Larken disk-drive system (D.U.S. version 2).

Their latest offering is a package of desktop publishing programs called The Print Factory. The pack-

age of 12 somewhat-integrated (more on that later) programs and supporting fonts and graphics allow one to produce a number of top-quality documents.

The programs included are:

First Edition, two versions (page layout); The Press (page layout); Letter Perfect (word processor); The Labeler; The Banner Printer; The Card Maker; Quick Screen; The File Keeper (graphic file compiler); The Translator (converts Pixel Print icons); The Creator (graphic designer); and ZX Driver (allows use of T/S2040).

Also included are 13 graphic files, with over 150 graphics and borders and 13 Super Sets--fonts as large as 48 points high. A normal T/S font is eight points high. The manual included with Factory is 17 pages long and explains the features of each program. In fact, the manual was created using The Print Factory.

Each program will need to be customized to match your printer/interface combination. Instructions are provided, along with a table of settings for a number of the most popular printers. The output from Factory is very good, rivaling that of any DTP program (including IBM/MacIntosh) using dot-matrix.

As I stated earlier, I feel the

programs in Factory are "somewhat" integrated. The programs have a drop-down menu structure, using the keyboard or joystick for input. The problem is that files created in one program can not be loaded into another program in the package. Graphic sets can be used in some programs, but not in others. Even though a word processor is provided in the package, text files are not compatible with programs.

Another shortcoming is the inability to change graphics or fonts at will. If you decide to make a change, in most programs the document is cleared and you must start again.

But don't let these minor problems keep you from getting Print Factory. The quality of the programs and their output far outweigh the few shortcomings. Byte Power plans to continue support of The Print Factory with Companion sets of fonts and graphics.

For a cassette demo/catalog of Byte Power products, send \$3.00 to: Byte Power, 1748 Meadowview Avenue, Pickering, Ontario, Canada L1V 388.

User Group of the Month

Let's continue our tour of Canada with a look at the Toronto Timex-

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CLASSIC NEWS

T/S News

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Sinclair User's Club (14 Richome Court, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1K 2Y1). The Toronto group has been in existence since the ZX-81 days and is one of the most active user groups in North America. Many product improvements have come from the Toronto group. Also, new software has been created by their members.

One of the highlights of the group is their bi-monthly newsletter, Sinc

NC 27515; \$23.95) takes you through the process of developing and printing an effective newsletter.

Parker begins by defining the various parts of the newsletter--nameplate, masthead, grid, etc.--and then explains each one in detail. Numerous examples are included to support the text. This book can be helpful to anyone, from the beginner to a design expert. Whether you plan to print a monthly two-page newsletter for your local users group or a 10-page document for sale, *Newsletters From The Desktop* is an excellent reference book.

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Program:HEADSCAN
9970 CLEAR 63999: FOR a=64000 TO 64052: READ b: POKE a,b: NEXT a
9975 CLS : PRINT "" Load a tape and press PLAY""
9980 DATA 55,62,0,221,33,60,250,17,17,0,205,14,250,201,33,252,0,205,34,250,58,33
,250,211,244,219,255
9981 DATA 203,191,211,255,251,201,0,243,245,219,255,203,255,211,255,219,244,50,3
3,250,62,1,211,244,241,233
9982 RANDOMIZE USR 64000
9983 LET a=64060: LET b=PEEK a: LET s=b
9984 IF b=0 THEN PRINT "PROGRAM: ";
9985 IF b=1 THEN PRINT "NUMERIC ARRAY: ";
9986 IF b=2 THEN PRINT "CHARACTER ARRAY: ";
9987 IF b=3 THEN PRINT "BYTES: ";
9988 FOR a=64061 TO 64070: LET b=PEEK a: PRINT CHR$ b; NEXT a: PRINT
9989 LET b=PEEK a+256*PEEK (a+1): PRINT "DATA LENGTH: ";b
9990 LET a=a+2: LET b=PEEK a+256*PEEK (a+1): IF s=3 THEN PRINT "START ADDRESS:
";b
9991 IF s<>0 THEN GO TO 9995
9992 IF b<1 OR b>9999 THEN GO TO 9994
9993 PRINT "AUTO START AT: ";b
9994 LET a=a+2: LET b=PEEK a+256*PEEK (a+1): PRINT "PROG/VARS LENGTH: ";b
9995 PRINT ""For another tape, touch ANY KEY"
9996 PAUSE 0: GO TO 9975
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Link. Jeff Taylor, the editor, takes pride in both the look and content of the newsletter. Extensive coverage of the T/S2068 and QL is the primary content, but a number of general T/S articles also appear.

A special letter to out-of-town members is sent with each issue from George Mockridge, secretary of the group. The Toronto Users Group has an extensive public domain software and newsletter/magazine library. President of the group is Rene Bruneau. Keep up the good work, Toronto!

Book Review

This month we look at another book from Roger C. Parker, writer of *Looking Good In Print*, now available in an expanded second edition. *Newsletters From The Desktop* (Ventana Press, P.O. Box 2468, Chapel Hill,

Public Domain Program

This month we bring you *Headscan*, a utility program that will enable you to read the header off of any T/S2068 cassette program. Type in the listing and save to tape. To use, load "" and play the tape you want to scan. *Headscan* will tell you if the program is basic or machine code. If it is basic, it will give you the autorun line number. If it is machine code, it will tell you the length and starting location of the code.

Next Month

Join us again next month for more T/S news and reviews. Drop us a line at Mountaineer Software if you have any comments, suggestions or questions. Take care!